

to come to Jesus? Luke 7: 40.

2. Simon being a Pharisee (Luke 7: 36) what are some things you can say about him?

3. How may we avoid making our religion a mere formality?

4. What is true penitence?

5. How may we "pay tithe of mint and anise" and "neglect the weightier matters of the law, justice, judgment and mercy?"

6. How may we hinder sinners from coming to Christ?

7. What are some common courtesies we often forget?

For all. What have you learned from the lesson Jesus taught Simon?

C. F. YODER.

OUR OWN CRURCH—WHAT CAN I DO FOR HER?

CHARLES DUNMIER

In pondering over the words, "Our own church," this thought came to me, The church of my choice, a church where I can worship God as my conscience tells me I should. When we look back we find there was a time when the people could not worship as they wished to. This was during the reign of King James the First. At that time the church of England was the established religion and any one who would not conform to the rules of that church was driven from place to place, their homes were destroyed and they were even imprisoned for long weary months in dark, gloomy cells. In the face of all these dangers there were a few who separated from the church of England and started a church of their own. The Separatists as they were called at length grew tired of persecution and fled to Holland where they lived a number of years; but here they met another difficulty. The customs of the pleasure loving Dutch began to creep into their church. During the meantime America had been discovered, so these God fearing Pilgrims resolved to leave Holland and go to the new world, where they might worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience and where they could say with comparative safety, "Our own church."

God always accomplishes great things with a few. Different denominations have sprung from the church that those pilgrims planted in America, differences and disputes in one denomination have given rise to another and so they have kept dividing and sub-dividing until at the present time there are perhaps hundreds of different churches in existence.

"Our church" as you all know comes from the Dunkard church. (For the few lines bearing upon her history I am indebted to Brother Frame.) About twenty-five years ago certain differences and disputes (in regard mostly to the manner of dress and the observance of feet washing) arose in that denomination. These things kept drifting on and getting worse, finally some left the church.

There appears to have been a similar dissension all over the United States. However the first real outbreak did not occur until about 1879. This happened in Missouri. Among the leaders of the Progressive element at this time were F. A. Hendricks, N.

J. McClintic, A. P. Gibson, William Summers and others. During the annual meeting held at Arnold's grove near Milford, Ind., these disputes came up for settlement, the result was the expulsion of a number of prominent members among them was Brother Holsinger. He immediately took steps to form a new organization. So in 1881 a meeting was held at Ashland, O., however nothing definite was accomplished, consequently the matter was postponed until June 1882, when another meeting was held at Dayton, O. This time the result was gratifying, with Brother Holsinger in the lead, an organization between the Progressive and Congregational elements was effected. This new church took for its foundation the entire scriptures just as it is; so if the Brethren church accepts and fulfills all the scriptures, she must surely be the church of Christ. From all this we learn that the Brethren church as an organization is yet very young. Not even a quarter of a century has passed since she has sprung into existence; but in this short space she has performed many wonderful things. She has been growing quite rapidly until she is fairly well represented all over the United States. She has met with many difficulties which for a time seemed almost to overwhelm her but thru the grace of God she has come out more than conqueror.

As we look back over the past we are made to exclaim, "Surely the Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad."

Now we come to the second part, "What can I do for her?"

In answering this question, I would say that we can do our duty. I do not believe that God requires more of us than we can do and if he does require anything of us it then becomes our duty to do that which he requires. The one great duty that we all have to perform as Paul says is "To walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

It is true of most churches; no doubt it is true of the Brethren church, that she has people within her doors that do not live worthy of their calling. They come to church once in a great while, profess to be Christians yet thru the week they live a different life; religion is to them only a cloak that they put on on Sunday merely for the purpose of hiding a multitude of sins. They are as it were trying to serve two masters and consequently as the word says they are putting God to an open shame. I consider such as traitors, for in reality they have been playing the part of Judas and he is the one who betrayed.

Professors of Christianity should remember that the world is closely watching every Christian's life. They very soon know whether you are living worthy of your calling. It is indeed only a verification of that truthful saying, "By their fruits ye shall know them."

There are a number of institutions in fact all the auxiliaries of the Brethren church

such as the College, Publishing House and missions need *my support and yours too*. I am glad to say that we have helped all these institutions, but after all we are compelled to acknowledge that we have not done what we could; we have not given as the Lord has prospered us. There is one more division that I wish to speak about, it is attending the service.

So many members of the church when Sunday comes are absent from the house of God. Brethren, in my opinion this is a serious state of affairs; it ought not so to be. As professors of Christianity it is your bounden duty to attend the services. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." God requires that day of all the world; how much more does he require of us who profess to be Christians? Yet Sunday after Sunday we professors are robbing God of that which justly belongs to Him.

I believe we have no right to stay away from the service unless we are physically unable to attend, or something we cannot avoid keeps us away. It is too often the case that we let trifling things keep us at home. Then too, it is discouraging to the pastor to find his members absent and in that way it hinders the work.

We are either for God or against Him; so if we habitually neglect the services we are surely working against God.

Brethren, in conclusion let me say this in thinking over this matter I realize that I might have done more for my church, and as this is the beginning of another year let us all resolve to do more and better work for our church in the coming year than we did in the past, believing if we labor we shall receive our reward.

Dunlaps, Ind.

SERMON ECHOES

LOUIS S. BAUMAN

Tomorrow is a front gate to hell.

Better steal gold than marry it.

A man's last shroud should be pocketless.

God is perfect justice as well as perfect love.

If pride is in the heart, it might as well be upon the back also.

Some preachers feed their congregations with soothing syrup, and then wonder why they sleep.

The Bible is a wonderful book, because it is the sublimest philosophy written in sublimest simplicity.

The church of Jesus Christ is doing one thing at least,—it is making men mighty responsible to God.

Every sermon, every invitation, every chapter read, every chiming church bell, every hour of time, is increasing man's responsibility to God.

Roann, Ind.